

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11563 061422Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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R 061253Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11563

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: DETENTION OF GEORGE FERNANDES

REF: (A) STATE 195162; (B) NEW DELHI 10360

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT FERANDES IS NOW BEING HELD IN
HISSAR JAIL (HARYANA), WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION ON HIS CASE
AND THE INVESTIGATION AGAINST HIM. WE HEAR REPORTS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO LINK HIM DIRECTLY WITH THE
BARODA DYNAMITE CASE (REF B) AND IF IT CAN DO SO, WILL GO TO A
PUBLIC TRIAL. THE GOI IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO UNCOVER ALL THOSE
WHO MAY HAVE SHELTERED FERNANDES WHILE HE WAS ON THE RUN
FOR OVER A YEAR. ONE NEWSMAN IN DELHI SAYS THAT FERNANDES'
BROTHER, LAWRENCE, WAS BADLY INJURED IN THE COURSE OF HIS
INTERROGATION BY THE POLICE AND THAT HIS BACK WAS BROKEN.
LAWRENCE IS SAID TO HAVE REVEALED UNDER DURESS THE NAMES OF
A NUMBER OF THOSE WITH WHOM HIS BROTHER HAD BEEN STAYING.
NEITHER WE NOR THE FRG EMBASSY (WHICH IS ALSO FOLLOWING FER-
NANDES CLOSELY IN VIEW OF DOMESTIC GERMAN POLITICAL INTEREST)
HAVE HEARD ANY REPORTS THAT HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN TORTURED.
INDEED, IF HE IS TO BE POSSIBLY PRESENTED BEFORE A COURT IN
CONNECTION WITH THE BARODA CASE, WE WOULD THINK THE GOI
WILL TAKE GREAT CARE TO KEEP HIM IN GOOD CONDITION.
SAXBE

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